

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: AK-040-04-CX-003

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-83229

Proposed Action Title/Types: Mineral Material Sale

Location of Proposed Action: SW1/4, Sec 10, T. 14 N., R. 2 W., Seward Meridian.

Description of Proposed Action:

The Alaska Railroad Corporation proposes to mine 5,000 cubic yards of mineral materials from a sloping area approximately 0.8 acres, 10-15 feet deep. The mining would occur during the month of October 2003. The mining area is located along and to the north of the railroad realignment route on Ft. Richardson, SW1/4, Section 10, T. 14 N., R. 2 W., Seward Meridian, and is not part of the railroad right-of-way land grant transfer. The total amount of material needed for aggregate processing for the project is approximately 5,000 cubic yards. However, due to job related delays and a higher than expected silt content of the material excavated from the right-of-way, the Alaska Railroad Corporation is unable to deliver high quality gravel material from the right-of-way as originally planned. Instead, the mineral materials mined from a cleared area adjacent to the right-of-way will supply about 5,000 cubic yards of material to make up for the shortfall of material from the right-of-way.

Reclamation of the staging area will follow the guidelines set forth in the Native Vegetation Restoration Plan (see document attached to AK-040-99-EA-026). No additional trees or other vegetation will need to be removed. The pit walls will be graded to a 2:1 slope. The pit will be reseeded to the standards listed in the Native Vegetation Restoration Plan. This plan was developed to implement the restoration requirements stipulated in BLM EA AK-040-99-EA-026 for the Alaska Railroad Corporation Track Realignment Project.

Applicant: Alaska Railroad Corporation

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southcentral MFP
Date Plan Approved: March, 1980.

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

Remarks:

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. or 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4., F. 10. Disposal of mineral materials such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay, in amounts not exceeding 5,000 cubic yards or disturbing more than 5 acres, except in riparian areas.

B. Departmental Exceptions Review.

The following Departmental List of Exceptions apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

- | | YES | NO |
|---|-----|--------------|
| 1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety. | ___ | <u>X</u> ___ |
| 2. Have adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics, historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. | ___ | <u>X</u> ___ |
| 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects. | ___ | <u>X</u> ___ |
| 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | ___ | <u>X</u> ___ |
| 5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | ___ | <u>X</u> ___ |
| 6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | ___ | <u>X</u> ___ |
| 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. | ___ | <u>X</u> ___ |
| 8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species. | ___ | <u>X</u> ___ |

YES NO

9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Flood plain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. _____ X
10. Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. _____ X

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks:

Preparer(s): /s/ Carl Persson Date: 10-07-03

PART III - DECISION

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or stipulation(s) attached in this case file.

Remarks:

Authorized Official: /s/ Wayne Svejnoha, Acting Date: 10-08-03